

POSTMASTERS GENERAL

Name	Took Office	Under President	Name	Took Office	Under President
*Benjamin Franklin	1775	†	Thomas L. James	1881	Garfield,
Richard Bache	1776	†**			Arthur
Ebenezer Hazard	1782	**	Timothy O. Howe	1882	Arthur
Samuel Osgood	1789	Washington	Walter Q. Gresham	1883	Arthur
*Timothy Pickering	1791	Washington	Frank Hatton	1884	Arthur
Joseph Habersham	1795	Washington,	William F. Vilas	1885	Cleveland
		J. Adams,	Don M. Dickinson	1888	Cleveland
Gideon Granger	1801	Jefferson	*John Wanamaker	1889	B. Harrison
		Jefferson,	Wilson S. Bissell	1893	Cleveland
Return Meigs, Jr.	1814	Madison	William L. Wilson	1895	Cleveland
John McLean	1823	Madison,	James Gary	1897	McKinley
		Monroe	Charles E. Smith	1898	McKinley,
		Monroe,			T. Roosevelt
		J. Q. Adams,	Henry C. Payne	1902	T. Roosevelt
William T. Barry	1829	Jackson	Robert J. Wynne	1904	T. Roosevelt
*Amos Kendall	1835	Jackson	George B. Cortelyou	1905	T. Roosevelt
		Jackson,	George von L. Meyer	1907	T. Roosevelt
John M. Niles	1840	Van Buren	Frank H. Hitchcock	1909	Taft
Francis Granger	1841	Van Buren	Albert S. Burleson	1913	Wilson
		W. H. Harrison,	Will Hays	1921	Harding
		Tyler	Hubert Work	1922	Harding
Charles A. Wickliffe	1841	Tyler	Harry S. New	1923	Harding,
Cave Johnson	1845	Polk			Coolidge,
*Jacob Collamer	1849	Taylor			Hoover
Nathan K. Hall	1850	Fillmore	Walter F. Brown	1929	Hoover
Sam D. Hubbard	1852	Fillmore	*James A. Farley	1933	F. D. Roosevelt
James Campbell	1853	Pierce	Frank C. Walker	1940	F. D. Roosevelt,
Aaron V. Brown	1857	Buchanan			Truman
Joseph Holt	1859	Buchanan	Robert E. Hannegan	1945	Truman
Horatio King	1861	Buchanan,	Jesse M. Donaldson	1947	Truman
		Lincoln	Arthur E. Summerfield	1953	Eisenhower
*Montgomery Blair	1861	Lincoln	J. Edward Day	1961	Kennedy
William Dennison	1864	Lincoln,	John A. Gronouski	1963	Kennedy,
		A. Johnson			L. B. Johnson
Alexander W. Randall	1866	A. Johnson	*Lawrence F. O'Brien	1965	L. B. Johnson
John A. J. Creswell	1869	Grant	W. Marvin Watson	1968	L. B. Johnson
James W. Marshall	1874	Grant	Winton M. Blount	1969	Nixon
Marshall Jewell	1874	Grant	Elmer T. Klassen	1972	†
James N. Tynor	1876	Grant	Benjamin F. Bailar	1975	†
David M. Key	1877	Hayes	William F. Bolger	1978	†
Horace Maynard	1880	Hayes			

*Has a separate biography in **WORLD BOOK**.

†Served under the Continental Congress.

**Served under the Congress of the Confederation.

†Since 1971, the postmaster general has been appointed by the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service instead of by the President.

History. The Continental Congress created a postal service in 1775 and appointed Benjamin Franklin as the first postmaster general. Congress passed the first postal act in 1789. From that year until 1971, all postmasters general were appointed by the President. The postmaster general became a member of the President's Cabinet in 1829, and the Post Office Department became an executive department in 1872.

On Aug. 12, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed a bill to replace the Post Office Department with the new United States Postal Service. The bill also removed the postmaster general from the President's Cabinet. The Postal Service began operating on July 1, 1971.

Critically reviewed by the U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

See also **POST OFFICE** with its list of Related Articles.

POSTAL UNION, UNIVERSAL (UPU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that sets rules for the free flow of mail between countries. It works to promote international cooperation in organizing and improving postal services. The UPU provides postal technical assistance to member countries. By the early

1970's, the UPU had about 150 members, which constituted a single postal territory for exchanging first-class mail. Postal authorities in those countries have pledged to handle all mail with equal care.

The UPU operates under an international agreement called the Universal Postal Convention. The convention lists postal rates and uniform procedures for handling first-class mail, including letters, post cards, and small packets. Separate agreements govern other services, such as parcel post, newspaper and magazine subscriptions, insured letters and boxes, and money orders.

Under the convention, in principle, each country keeps the postage it collects on international mail. But each must repay other members for the cost of transporting mail across their borders. Transportation charges are calculated by the UPU and are based on samplings of international mail usually taken every three years.

The *Universal Postal Congress* is the main legislative body of the UPU. It usually meets every five years in a member country to review and amend the convention. UPU legislation takes precedence over any conflicting

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